

§ 1316.93

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owner of the vessel may file a petition for expedited release pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section and the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section and other provisions in this subpart pertaining to a petition for expedited release shall apply as if the vessel had been physically seized.

(c) The owner filing the petition for expedited release shall establish the following:

(1) The owner has a valid, good faith interest in the seized property as owner or otherwise;

(2) The owner reasonably attempted to ascertain the use of the property in a normal and customary manner; and

(3) The owner did not know or consent to the illegal use of the property, or in the event that the owner knew or should have known of the illegal use, the owner did what reasonably could be expected to prevent the violation.

(d) In addition to those factors listed in paragraph (c) of this section, if an owner can demonstrate that the owner has other statutory rights or defenses that would cause the owner to prevail on the issue of forfeiture, such factors shall also be considered in ruling on the petition for expedited release.

(e) A petition for expedited release must be filed in a timely manner to be considered by the seizing agency. In order to be filed in a timely manner, the petition must be received by the appropriate seizing agency within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice of seizure. The petition must be executed and sworn to by the owner and both the envelope and the request must be clearly marked "PETITION FOR EXPEDITED RELEASE." Such petition shall be filed in triplicate with the Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) field office in the judicial district in which the property was seized, depending upon which agency seized the property. The petition shall be addressed to the Director of the FBI or to the Administrator of the DEA, depending upon which agency seized the property.

(f) The petition shall include the following:

(1) A complete description of the property, including identification num-

bers, if any, and the date and place of seizure;

(2) The petitioner's interest in the property, which shall be supported by title documentation, bills of sale, contracts, mortgages, or other satisfactory documentary evidence; and

(3) A statement of the facts and circumstances, to be established by satisfactory proof, relied upon by the petitioner to justify expedited release of the seized property.

§ 1316.93 Ruling on petition for expedited release in an administrative forfeiture action.

(a) Upon receipt of a petition for expedited release filed pursuant to § 1316.92(a), the seizing agency shall determine first whether a final administrative determination of the case, without regard to the provisions of this subpart, can be made within 21 days of the seizure. If such a final administrative determination is made within 21 days, no further action need be taken under this subpart.

(b) If no such final administrative determination is made within 21 days of the seizure, the following procedure shall apply. The seizing agency shall, within 20 days after the receipt of the petition for expedited release, determine whether the petition filed by the owner has established the factors listed in § 1316.92(c) and:

(1) If the seizing agency determines that those factors have been established, it shall terminate the administrative proceedings and return the property to the owner (or in the case of a commercial fishing industry vessel for which a summons has been issued shall dismiss the summons), except where it is evidence of a violation of law; or

(2) If the seizing agency determines that those factors have not been established, the agency shall proceed with the administrative forfeiture.

§ 1316.94 Posting of substitute res in an administrative forfeiture action.

(a) Where property is seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities, the owner may obtain release of the property by posting a substitute res with the seizing agency. The

property will be released to the owner upon the payment of an amount equal to the appraised value of the property if it is not evidence of a violation of law or has design or other characteristics that particularly suit it for use in illegal activities. This payment must be in the form of a traveler's check, a money order, a cashier's check or an irrevocable letter of credit made payable to the seizing agency. A bond in the form of a cashier's check will be considered as paid once the check has been accepted for payment by the financial institution which issued the check.

(b) If a substitute res is posted and the property is administratively forfeited, the seizing agency will forfeit the substitute res in lieu of the property.

§ 1316.95 Petition for expedited release of a conveyance in a judicial forfeiture action.

(a) Where a conveyance has been seized and is being forfeited in a judicial proceeding for a drug-related offense, the owner may petition the United States Attorney for an expedited release of the conveyance.

(b) The owner filing the petition for expedited release shall establish the following:

(1) The owner has a valid, good faith interest in the seized conveyance as owner or otherwise;

(2) The owner has statutory rights or defenses that would show to a substantial probability that the owner would prevail on the issue of forfeiture;

(3) The owner reasonably attempted to ascertain the use of the conveyance in a normal and customary manner; and

(4) The owner did not know or consent to the illegal use of the conveyance; or in the event that the owner knew or should have known of the illegal use, the owner did what reasonably could be expected to prevent the violation.

(c) A petition for expedited release must be filed in a timely manner in order to be considered by the United States Attorney. To be considered as filed in a timely manner, the petition must be received by the appropriate United States Attorney within 20 days from the date of the first publication of

the notice of the action and arrest of the property, or within 30 days after filing of the claim, whichever occurs later. The petition must be executed and sworn to by the owner, and both the envelope and the request must be clearly marked "PETITION FOR EXPEDITED RELEASE." Such petition shall be filed in triplicate and addressed to and filed with the United States Attorney prosecuting the conveyance for forfeiture with a copy to the seizing agency.

(d) The petition shall include the following:

(1) A complete description of the conveyance, including the identification number, and the date and place of seizure;

(2) The petitioner's interest in the conveyance, which shall be supported by bills of sale, contracts, mortgages, or other satisfactory documentary evidence; and,

(3) The facts and circumstances, to be established by satisfactory proof, relied upon by the petitioner to justify expedited release of the seized conveyance.

§ 1316.96 Ruling on a petition for expedited release of a conveyance in a judicial forfeiture action.

(a) Upon receipt of a petition for expedited release filed pursuant to § 1316.95, the United States Attorney shall rule on the petition within 20 days of receipt. A petition shall be deemed filed on the date it is received by the United States Attorney.

(b) If the United States Attorney does not rule on the petition for expedited release within 20 days after the date on which it is filed, the conveyance shall be returned to the owner or interested party pending further forfeiture proceedings, except where it is evidence of a violation of law. Release of conveyance under provisions of this paragraph shall not affect the forfeiture action with respect to that conveyance.

(c) Upon a favorable ruling on the petition for expedited release, the United States Attorney shall, where necessary, move to terminate the judicial proceedings against the conveyance and immediately direct the return of the conveyance except where it is evidence of a violation of law.